

**U.S. Department of Justice**

*United States Attorney*

*Eastern District of Virginia*

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**NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Richmond, Virginia  
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Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced today the arrests of six individuals on federal drug charges. Those arrested were: Ronnie Coleman, age 23; Samuel Graham, age 36; Eric Jones, age 20; Aaron Payton, age 20; Allen Smith, age 20; and Craig Turner, age 21, all of Colonial Beach, Virginia. Each of the defendants was charged in a criminal complaint with distribution of crack cocaine. The charges carry a maximum sentence of 20 years' imprisonment. The arrests were initiated by a federal task force comprised of local, state, and federal law enforcement officers formed in response to the rising rates of drug crime and violence in the Colonial Beach area.

Also announcing the arrests are Assistant Special Agent in Charge James Gregorius, Drug Enforcement Administration; John P. Malone, Special Agent-In-Charge, Washington Field Division, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives; Colonel Steven Flaherty, Superintendent of the Virginia State Police; Westmoreland County Sheriff Charles W. Jackson; and Westmoreland County Commonwealth's Attorney Richard Stuart.

The cases are being investigated by agents of the DEA, ATF, Virginia State Police, and Westmoreland County Sheriff's Office, and are being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney S. David Schiller.